



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/257,127	02/25/1999	KANJI MIHARA	450114-4503	1754

20999 7590 06/23/2003

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

LEE, Y YOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2613

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/257,127

Applicant(s)

Kanji Mihara et al

Examiner

Y. Lee

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 2, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 4-9 and 13-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Feb 25, 1999 is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 4 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2613

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, species I, claims 1-3 and 10-12 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 4-9 and 13-18 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected embodiment, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 8.
3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Priority

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Art Unit: 2613

Drawings

5. Figures 12 and 13 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

8. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said image encoding control apparatus" in lines 4-5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

Art Unit: 2613

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-3 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reininger et al (5,426,463).

Reininger et al, in Figure 2, discloses the same device and method for controlling image encoding for use in a system provided with a plurality of encoding means (12-19) for encoding a plurality of program data 10 as specified in claims 1-3 and 10-12 of the present invention, each including image data, and multiplexing means 22 for multiplexing output data of each of the encoding means 15, in which a target code rate (e.g. initial threshold value) is set to each of the encoding means as a target amount of codes to be generated per unit time R so as to control each of the encoding means, the image encoding control method including a temporary target-code-rate determining step R_j for acquiring encoding difficulty which indicates encoding difficulty in encoding for each program data, and for determining a temporary target code rate (r) for each program data which corresponds to the acquired encoding difficulty for each program data by using a corresponding relationship (e.g. for I, P, B) between the encoding difficulty and a target code rate set for each program data in accordance with a maximum value R_{GOP} , a minimum value (e.g. zero) and an average value E of the target code rate determined for each program data and an average value of the encoding difficulty ThV for each program data and in such a manner that the larger the encoding difficulty is, the larger the target code rate becomes (e.g. Q step size adjustment), and that in a specific range in which the encoding difficulty 28 is larger than an

Art Unit: 2613

average value of the encoding difficulty ThV, a target code rate 27 corresponding to the same encoding difficulty is lowered as compared with a case in which the encoding difficulty and the target code rate have a proportional relationship, whereas in a specific range in which the encoding difficulty 28 is smaller than the average value of the encoding difficulty ThV, the target code rate 27 corresponding to the same encoding difficulty is raised as compared with a case in which the encoding difficulty and the target code rate have a proportional relationship; and a target-code-rate correcting step 25 of correcting the temporary target code rate determined in the temporary target code rate determining step in such a manner that the sum of target code rates of each program data 28 is within a specific allowable value range (e.g. mb_{size} , col. 4) so as to determine a final target code rate Q of each program data, and for setting the final target code rate (i.e. Q_I , Q_P , Q_B) to each of the encoding means 14.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Odaka et al and Azadegan et al disclose rate-controlled digital video editing method and system which controls bit allocation for motion video compression encoders by varying quantization levels.

12. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 2613

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

(for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Or:

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Y. Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308-7584.


Y. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Y. Lee/yl
June 10, 2003